

prosperous homes. It is part of the traditional policy of home-making of our country. Every other consideration comes as secondary. The whole effort of the government in dealing with the forests must be directed to this end, keeping in view the fact that it is not only necessary to start the homes as prosperous but to keep them so."

He went on to say, "Your attention must be directed to the preservation of the forests not, as an end in and of itself, but as a means of preserving and increasing the prosperity of this Nation. Forestry is the preservation of forests by wise use of the forests."

But those who call themselves environmentalists today would have turned their backs on Roosevelt's vision. What has happened when we impose an extreme and narrow political policy on our natural resources? We have this year experienced catastrophic wildfires, burning more board feet this year of timber than we have ever logged off our national forests. That is sheer waste. That is sheer destruction.

We must not cut off our noses to spite our face, Mr. Speaker. We must responsibly use and promote these industries. We must be wise stewards of our Earth and our resources. But those resources are there for us to use.

Just as there are some citizens who would plunder other citizens, there are other nations in this world who would seek unfair advantages from us, this great Nation. We must protect our Nation's interests and our national sovereignty. Sovereignty forms the fourth cornerstone of the policies that I have advocated. Just as with any community, there is a global community, and we should and do try to be a good and responsible neighbor in that community. Yet there are those who would argue that we are such a part of this global community that we can lose our identity and that people in other nations should have a voice in such matters as our own land policies or consumer protection laws or our judicial systems. That goes beyond being a good neighbor into becoming the neighborhood's doormat. Let America never become the global doormat.

That is why I and some of my colleagues put up such a fight over such seemingly small issues as World Heritage Site designations and the Man in the Biosphere programs of the United Nations. These are the neighborhood's busybodies, offering their opinions on the state of our yards and gardens. Everyone welcomes praise, but when the praise starts to turn into a sanctioning of what we may and may not do, a bright line has been crossed, a bright line has been crossed and an invasion into our sovereignty.

In the recent film about the American Revolution entitled "The Patriot," I saw that and I think everyone, Mr. Speaker, in this body should view the movie "The Patriot." It would re-

mind everyone here in this body why we are here. The main character in that film rose and asked a body of his compatriots, "Would you be ruled by one tyrant 3,000 miles away or by 3,000 tyrants one mile away?"

Mr. Speaker, we now seem to face the prospect of thousands of would-be tyrants trying to rule us from all around the world. Nowhere is the fight to preserve our national sovereignty more important than in preserving our national security. I have often said that in my heart of hearts I really am a dove. But I want America to be the best armed dove on the planet. George Washington said it more eloquently when he said, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving the peace." And Ronald Reagan carried that out effectively.

□ 1545

Sadly, we have allowed the readiness of our military to deteriorate badly. Training missions are compromised by tight budgets, we have military families eligible for food stamps, and retention levels are becoming difficult to maintain. And we often fail to meet our duty to our past warriors, our veterans, those great Americans. We provide them with inadequate health services. We dishonor them with neglect. In my home State of Idaho, we have not even provided them with a specific field of honor in which to lie when they pass on to the next world.

I am very pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that as one of my proudest accomplishments, it does look like we will have that field of honor for our brave military veterans soon under construction at a place in Idaho just outside of Boise.

But we must be very careful that we do not trade away our national sovereignty in some ill-considered effort to become popular with the rest of the world. Our military exists to protect American land and vital American interests. We cannot bully the rest of the world into behaving like we do. But I just cringe when I think of American soldiers serving under foreign command, and I think that should never, never happen.

And when it comes to protecting our sovereignty, we must not compromise our internal laws to suit foreign interests, nor must we allow our thirst for trade with other nations to allow us to ignore the aggressive and threatening natures of some of our other neighbors in this global community. And we certainly must not casually give away any more of our important strategic assets, whether they be the secrets to our most powerful weapons, or important avenues for commercial and military traffic, such as the Panama Canal, which is now being run by the Red Chinese in violation of the Panama Canal Treaty. The Red Chinese are now piloting our ships through the Panama Canal.

Mr. Speaker, it is my belief and has been my work for the past years and will continue after I leave Congress, to defend these four cornerstones of freedom. This is the most important job that we have as legislators, to preserve the lives, the liberty and the property of our fellow citizens, and to protect our national sovereignty.

There has, however, been an almost inexorable trend against those unalienable rights. There is no mistake in my mind that those rights have weakened as our Federal Government has grown bigger and stronger. The efforts that work against those rights often come clothed in garments of good intentions.

When we seek to remedy some problem through the expansion or consolidation of power into a smaller set of hands, remember the words of Lord Acton, that power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.

That corruption will twist and bend the law away from what our Founding Fathers intended and into something future generations will regret and future generations would suffer under.

So, Mr. Speaker and my fellow Members of Congress, it has been a great privilege to serve in this body, this great body representing this great land, this powerful government of the people, by the people and for the people. I hope that you will remember my words, and I hope that you will remember the lofty, yet very simple reason that we are here. And years hence, when some colleague takes the floor of this magnificent Chamber and speaks out for the cause of freedom and liberty, I hope that you will take those words to heart.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2159

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 9 O'clock and 59 minutes p.m.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4461, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Florida submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 4461) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs